

Exports

A release from the Province of British Columbia's central statistical agency

REFERENCE DATE: SEPTEMBER 2014 | ISSUE #14-09



B.C. exports climbed 8.1% in the first three quarters of 2014.



Metallic mineral product exports jumped 20.2% year-to-date to September.



Pulp and paper product exports grew 11.8% year-to-date to September.

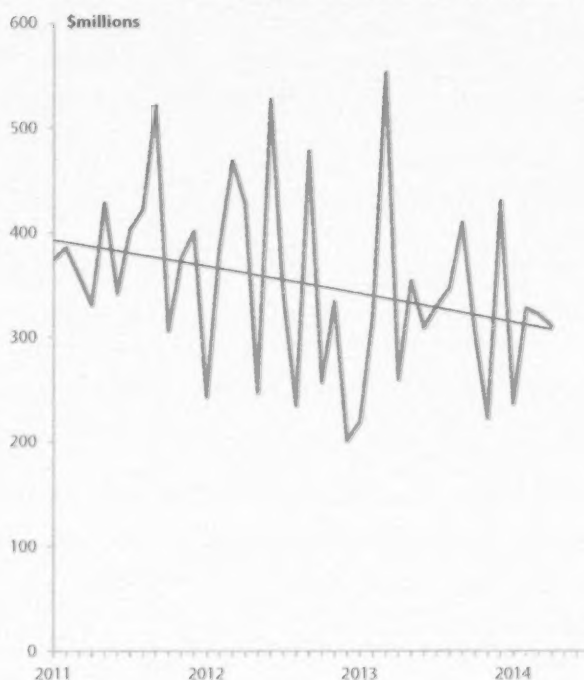
BY DESTINATION

The value of B.C. origin exports jumped 8.1% over the first three quarters of 2014, compared to the same nine-month period a year earlier. There was strong growth to B.C.'s largest trading partner, with exports to the United States climbing 15.5%. Growth in shipments to Mainland China was more muted, at 1.2%, but South Korea (+33.2%) and India (+12.3%) saw significant increases. At the other end of the scale, there were large drops in the value of goods shipped to Japan (-9.7%) and Taiwan (-14.5%).

BY COMMODITY

B.C.'s exports of metallic mineral products have increased 20.2% over the January to September period of 2014, compared to the same period in 2013. There was particularly robust growth in shipments of copper ores and concentrates (+31.6%) and molybdenum ores and concentrates (+32.6%). Unwrought aluminum bucked the trend, with exports dropping 28.5%. This is almost certainly due to the modernization of the aluminum smelter in Kitimat and the fact that a portion of the plant has been taken out of production while new facilities are being constructed.

B.C.'S EXPORTS TO JAPAN HAVE BEEN TRENDING DOWN



Source: Statistics Canada / Prepared by BC Stats

There was also a significant expansion in shipments of fabricated metal products, with the value of exports of those goods rising 12.6%.

Exports – continued...

The value of B.C.'s energy exports edged up 1.8% over the first three quarters of 2014, despite a 22.3% drop in the value of coal shipments. Substantial price increases in both natural gas and electricity boosted the value of exports of those goods helping offset the decline in coal. Despite a 2.8% reduction in quantities shipped, the value of natural gas exports soared 53.7% higher. Similarly, although the quantity of electricity exported dipped 2.1%, the value of exports grew 24.2%.

In the forest sector, there was a 4.9% boost in shipments of solid wood products, including a 7.8% rise in exports of softwood lumber. Pulp and paper product exports climbed 11.8% with pulp (+14.0%) and newsprint (+17.5%) leading the way.

Exports of agriculture and food increased 11.0% year-to-date, while fish product shipments saw similar growth of 11.1%. There was also strong growth in exports of machinery and equipment (+12.6%) and chemicals and chemical products (+14.9%).

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED EXPORTS

Seasonal adjustment provides a means of making month-to-month comparisons by removing the periodic seasonal fluctuations that occur. Variations from normal seasonal patterns are revealed in the seasonally adjusted series.

There was a 2.4% boost in the value of B.C.'s commodity exports in September as a 5.7% rise in shipments to the United States offset a marginal 0.8% drop in exports to the rest of the world.

A 13.7% lift in exports of energy products drove much of the overall increase. Much of this growth was driven by higher commodity prices, particularly for natural gas. An 8.8% jump in shipments of metal ores and non-metallic minerals also helped drive the overall increase and offset significant drops in exports of farm, fishing and intermediate food products (-15.7%), motor vehicles and parts (-17.8%) and aircraft and other transportation equipment and parts (-25.0%).

The rise in shipments to the U.S. was largely the result of a 20.2% jump in exports of energy products. Growth of 8.5% in shipments of metal ores and non-metallic minerals and 6.9% in exports of energy products helped keep the decline in exports to the rest of the world modest, despite a 49.1% drop in shipments of farm, fishing and intermediate food products, a 22.5% slump in exports of metal and non-metallic mineral products and a 3.4% dip in shipments of forestry products and building and packaging materials.

[Click here](#) to visit the exports and imports page on the BC Stats website.
